

REMARKS

In accordance with the forgoing, claims 1 and 15 have been amended. Claims 1, 3-9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17-23, 25, 26 and 28 are pending and under consideration. The following remarks are respectfully submitted.

I. Double Patenting

The Examiner has variously provisionally rejected the claims under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Since it is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patent, Applicants will wait to respond to the rejections until claims have issued.

II. Rejections Under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 13, 15-17, 19-21 and 27 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,769,671 to Lim ("Lim"). Applicants respectfully assert that the claims of the present invention are patentably distinguishable from Lim and the rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention is directed to a connector assembly that includes a first deflection portion extending outward from at least one of the first inner surface and the second inner surface along the top portion of the first deflectable clip, and a second deflection portion extending outward from the at least one of the first inner surface and the second inner surface to be positioned between the first arm and the second arm, the second deflection portion deflecting the connector clip, prior to insertion of the lead between the first arm and the second arm, from a first position corresponding to a first distance between the first arm and the second arm, to a second position corresponding to a second distance between the first arm and the second arm, wherein the second distance is greater than the first distance. As described in lines 6-11 of paragraph 36, of the present application, for example, such a feature allows for ease in inserting the terminal pin of the lead. (see also, paragraphs 42 and 55 of the present application)

As described by Lim, Lim teaches that the spring has free ends that maintain a spacing of approximately 0.005 inches when the spring is placed in the housing and before

introduction of the lead. The Examiner asserts that the free ends are advanced to another position that the Examiner assumes is greater than 0.005 inches when the lead is inserted. Therefore, the Examiner's assumption is that the spring of Lim is advanced from 0.005 inches to some undisclosed and assumed distance greater than 0.005 inches as a result of the introduction of the lead between the free ends of the spring (Applicants respectfully maintain that Lim only teaches a force fit caused by the projections 25a-25d against the lead when inserted, as set forth in the prior response and described in Lim, however, this position is being ignored here for the sake of responding the Examiner's response). However, the advancing of the connector clip according to the present invention is performed by the second deflection portion, not by the lead as taught by Lim. In particular, as described above, the claims of the present invention set forth a second deflection portion deflecting the connector clip, prior to insertion of the lead between the first arm and the second arm, from a first position corresponding to a first distance between the first arm and the second arm, to a second position corresponding to a second distance between the first arm and the second arm, wherein the second distance is greater than the first distance.

Lim does not teach or suggest a second deflection portion deflecting the connector clip, prior to insertion of the lead between the first arm and the second arm, from a first position corresponding to a first distance between the first arm and the second arm, to a second position corresponding to a second distance between the first arm and the second arm, wherein the second distance is greater than the first distance, as set forth in independent claims 1 and 15 of the present invention. Therefore, claim 1 and claims 3-9, 11, 12, and 14 dependent thereon and independent claim 15 and claims 17-23, 25, 26 and 28 dependent thereon are patentably distinguishable from Lim. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Rejections Under 35 USC § 103

Claims 4, 8-12, 14, 18, 22-26 and 28 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lim. The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

As described above, Lim does not teach or suggest the second deflection portion deflecting the connector clip, prior to insertion of the lead between the first arm and the second arm, from a first position corresponding to a first distance between the first arm and the second arm, to a second position corresponding to a second distance between the first arm and the second arm, wherein the second distance is greater than the first distance, as set forth in independent claims 1 and 15 of the present invention. Therefore, claim 1 and claims 4 and 8-12 and 14 dependent thereon, independent claim 15 and claims 18, 22-26 and 28 dependent thereon are patentably distinguishable from Lim. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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